

London Sep 24th 1855

My dear Mr. Norton

instead of a new, & others by famous. There was a beautiful Madonna
 there of Verrocchio, and some very striking figures by Salvator Rosa. A
 beautiful portrait by Rubens of his first wife, etc. We were very anxious
 to see the few pictures left of the high school collection - but the
 Emperor of Russia bought so many, & the Emperor of Prussia, with
 whom Dr. J. had passed the day before, had kindly pointed us a letter to the
 Superintendent of the Palace. The pictures are not shown to the public.
 But on presenting our letter, the gentleman told us he had been expecting the
 King with the Duchess & was still waiting for them, & that unfortunately we
 could not see them then. So we finished our steps about 11 o'clock, &
 & some Dutch first read for lunch, just half past 2, & went to the
 Bazaar to get some little trifles for decoration for the table - each pretty
 thing as we find from all parts of the world. Really we have no idea at home
 of handsome things. But it remains a secret mine to see them - we go
 back to the case just in time, & remain to dinner, at a late dinner, & on
 Monday we went to the French church, & saw the service, & the
 without words is dead. The church is a fine one, & the sermon
 an old man expounded it on a human foundation, and in the old church,
 a cathedral before the revolution, & there was a magnificent of many
 old professors & learned men. There was much to see, & quite touching
 in their small simplicity. One was a white marble oval, but upon it
 "Remperium patrum dispensationem" - But at the base was the date a child's death.
 In the centre of the church they were administering the Sacrament. Rich
 people were in sun & sitting round a low table. We heard the organ & the
 singing, & it was very fine, & also at this church where we attended service
 there a new book was handed, & each hymn to the music, & the psalms at
 the end of the canticle the same common form, although on playing the tone
 before them an amended form, but the singing is so slow that it sounds like
 a chant. They all use the same book, there is no movement, but they generally
 sing well, & the effect is very fine & grand. And you have all voices, women,
 etc. sing & children all blended in one sweet effect. I liked very
 much. The street so quiet, & shaded with trees, & almost all bordered on
 a canal, & so neat, & the houses with their large windows & comfortable
 look. Our chamber looked directly over the canal, & I could not but think
 what a nice quiet way to carry provisions to market, when the large boats loads
 of vegetables slide by so noiselessly. There are comparatively few vehicles in
 the street. The Sunday was kept so quietly there, & much less noise &
 every day business than in the smaller fine continental cities. After
 our dinner we walked out to stroll in the Botanic garden - and having
 promised Madame Loder that we would let her know when we came, we
 walked to their house, one side of which looks into the garden. She was dining
 but promised to join us soon. The garden is very old, one of the oldest in the continent.

I have written the letter 1855

carriage,
 & a...
 in, as, from, address, & see - In fact I am...
 after received a letter from...
 which were sent to the...
 the...
 7 weeks after it was written! I have...
 you cannot tell how much I am...
 much I love letters are such comfort! - I...
 you will... in England...
 their...
 left my journal, having...
 in Amsterdam. The...
 to change my view & sally out...
 museum, where there is a large...
 paintings of the Dutch school - And many other...
 & French - I am delighted with the...
 true to life! To be sure the subjects are not very...
 are often very pleasant, & the man seems...
 in mind at. There are many more...
 schools you feel the ideal is still so far above the...
 the... of want is the strongest...
 after seeing the... pictures, with the...
 & the... looks as if it must yield or touch, it looks so life-
 like, it quite spoils me for the Italian pictures, where though often
 the character is so much more lofty & grand it seems hard & cold,
 & unnatural. I must say I have been disappointed in the Raphaels
 I have seen so far, though they are I believe his inferior works - You
 must not judge, I see now very plainly, of either Rubens or Titian or

many of the Dutch painters from engravings, for what looks more
in them is soft & rich in the colour - But I rather fancy the Italian
school appears to have ^{in engraving} advantage, & one imagines after seeing a beau-
tiful engraving with its sweet & angelic face that the colourist
adds more to it than it really has, & fancy the painter's ideal
rather than the real picture. - The engraving which you have hanging
in your bed-chamber, Sue, & which we think so much, the Dutch
landscape I mean, is a famous painting, & when you get in the colour
of the landscape, & the cattle is expressively done, you would scarcely
recognize it for the same thing were it not for the outlines. But
I must say I did not like it so well as many others. There are in
the Amsterdam museum some most famous pictures of Rembrandt,
fine portraits of Van Dyck's. Most exquisitely finished pictures of 'mildness'
& 'tender' - Latin that you can scarcely believe can be painted. Dutch
interior by Steen, Leuven &c. Some of the perfectly finished works
of Gerard van. Every hair painted in the old man's beard, & a beautiful
candlelight scene by him - Some sketches by an Steen, one of Santa Rosa
coe. Sweet heads by Chalkers, wonderful birds & game & hunting scenes
by Kruis & Snyder, & magnificent fruit & flower pieces - There are only
or 2 of Rembrandt - Some of the Landscapes are beautiful. Scenes where
horses are introduced by Houwermans, beautiful sea pieces by Vanderkade,
& I think the loveliest landscape I ever saw by Huisdael - A cataract
your little scene with cattle in it, Sapa - Who painted it? Brunsel or
'Berghem'. I saw some things very much in that manner by one
of those artists, I cannot remember which - But it is impossible I
well know to give any description of the style of different masters but
words, one must see them to get a clear idea - But still study helps
one very much, & I am sorry I have not studied more about painting,
& mean to try this winter, especially before I go to Paris & Italy -

After we had staid a long time there, we left to find our way to the
Botanic garden, Dr. Paus gave me a letter for Prof. Michela - It was a time when
one of the annual fairs are held in Rotterdam - And the women give
such a very odd costume - There were plenty of booths about, some selling
traps, some refreshments - There was one I was down afterwards that I did not
stop at & take some of the characteristic Dutch cakes - A woman sat on high with
in front of her on the table a brass tray about 2 feet long & broad, filled with flaming
jajjots, over that - at the proper distance when you pass with drollers beaten down at regular
intervals - To the side of the woman is a large shining brass horn of some European.

shape & by rutter the sea - The woman dips a ladlefull of batter from the
with ^{the} movement of her arm throw it into one of the hollows & the pan,
the boy follows at a shorter interval & turns them over, & then dishes them up -
We went to the painter's through the back quarter, and it did not carry out my
idea of artist cleanliness, which that I saw & queer friends, some selling crockery,
some remnants of cloth, some shoes, some books, some fruit, some fish, & all
exposed in the open street in rags, tables, &c. - Such a trade as they made
with their pieces must be a bad business, but nearly he had just
gone to the millers of his things with the best of his own from a sudden blow had
been back, & they were in the lower rooms looking at a picture, & Rem-
brandt's white horse in the room I was assured by the Brown Count to shake
hands with me, & I went out - In the afternoon I devoted to painting, while I pay went
to pass it with my children - On returning, a gentleman whom I met there,
I had just seen & he said that was most comely amount the books that were
taken was about a week's work - such queer sights as he saw! I heard in the
evening, & went to the window, & there was a man, & a woman, & a child, & a woman
spanned by a white cloth, she sat in her arms & two boys - The man sang
his work at the top of his voice, & the boys danced round the hat - The man sang
around we left for Leyden - There we went to the museum of the University,
a very valuable collection, & the finest set of stuffed birds in the world, & the
The Royal Herbarium, Dr. Blume sent us home, but Dr. Schultze his assistant, was
attentive - Then we went to the Japanese collection of Dr. Siebold & Schimper, very
thing of Japanese manners, habits, everyday life & religious worship - I must unique
collection - Dr. Siebold was in Japan 7 years, some of the time imprisoned, & it
it were known that he was to carry away these things, as the servant, who showed
us round, significantly showed his fate by drawing his hand across his throat. So
it is against the Japanese laws to export these things under pain of death -
Then we went to the town hall - I saw a very old building of the 17th century,
I saw several very good portraits with superb beds of tapestry - And sundry monuments
in portraits, & a view of the brave old Bishopmaster, elder Vanderkade, who de-
fended the city so bravely against the Spaniards in 1672. He had taken up
two lodgings in a quiet main situation, "as Charney says, 'but where one
will find civility & cleanliness' - And so it was - but beds had curtains of dark
green moose, & scattered round the house were sundry old pieces of furniture,
quite the fortune of old-fashioned hunters - We it to our room by going up stairs &
down, & through queer passages - But everything was exceedingly neat & comfortable -
Saturday evening we took the cars for a half hour ride to the Hague, there to visit
the gallery of paintings - Here again were admirable Dutch landscapes & one which
could almost be the most famous paintings in the world - Paul Potter's bull -
It certainly is most wonderful - The artist was Rembrandt's famous picture of
the dissection, which formerly belonged to the ^{School of medicine} ~~University~~ at Leyden, & some very fine
heads by him - Beautiful landscape again by Houwermans, & sea pieces by Vanderkade,

Leiden

The oldest in open

& was known well to Linnaeus - After going through the various houses & walking about, we met Vidua de Meide, & she summoned the porter to show us the Room in the University - where are hung all the old portraits of the Professors quite from its foundation - The room is quite lined with them - And there we saw the Standard worked by the ladies of Leiden, & presented by them to the Students who enlisted & formed themselves into a company to go to the defence of Holland when last threatened by the French in 1793. It is very handsome, of wide satin worked with green & red & blue, & a wreath of laurel ^{Laurel} oak on one side & a motto on the other some sweet in gold, & the University was founded after the defence of Leiden against the Spaniards - The King offered the people some commensurate reward, & they chose the University - One of the Laureates remained in a pretty girl about 17 or 18 looking like Anna Keats - she spoke English very tolerably - He went with the Duke to take tea - And soon Mr de Meide came in with Mr. Lynn, he had come to Amsterdam to visit Maria, & we had tea - There were several children, one pretty little boy of about 2 years, & the mother, Madame de Meide, who she did not seem to get the little girl - He had a very pleasant visit - I now talked French & some of them English - We were to leave early the next morning for London - He proposed in finding the boat on Sunday from Rotterdam to London, we agreed it, went early Tuesday morning, & as we had a fearful report of the wind to America, we must have some horses in it - So we were up before light to take the diligence to Hague to join the early cars from there, for there was none until late in the evening - I packed up, breakfasted, & then our way to the office - But in catching the diligence, what was like one of our stage coaches, & filled with men - On getting our seats & settling of themselves began to smoke! & people there were inside, & smoking! - I had my window given & the man opposite me a little narrow one, & that was all - They seem to detest fresh air - The poor man unjiced on to the little coach and was in a hurry - ~~He~~ ^{He} made it last all the way to the Hague! I sat with my head out of the window - But, it is sick & such a head ache! Poor de Meide sat more inside, said his eyes were almost shut out - Of course is entertained with the pleasure of the ride, which would otherwise have been quite uninteresting - For one part of it among the quaint Dutch villages just on the suburbs being round & garden is surrounded with a ditch, & a brick access to the avenue, & in the centre the gate - I was quite amused with seeing at one house a little narrow plank with two wheels is a hole in the wall, intended for the dog or chickens! - Then the summer-houses quite overlook the little ditch, generally pointing on it. They did not always smell the sweetest - The ditches & canals were quite full of water - And in some places the

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canals were banked up & higher than the fields. I think on the whole I
should not like to live in Holland - To be at the mercy of a storm, or
flock must be in various ways of firing - In Spain the land was so
unsafe where the station N.B. was built, that they had to drive piles
& sink a raft to hold the foundations. But it did not hold so flat
as I expected - They have been very much along the roads, & the
dikes are so broad they look so interminable, that you did not see as
much meanness & poverty as I expected - Every field is surrounded by
a little canal or ditch, & a bridge serves to get over them - There were
five cattle in the fields - And I saw some women, especially east wives,
in the cities - We reached Rotterdam on Wed. morn & there found the
steamer at which we sailed on Sat. at 11 o'clock, to be tonight as
well have taken to the water - As we put upon, sail, I strolled
through the streets, picked up some idle things, & walked away
till nine - I did some writing - I dreaded very much the sail
across, fearing I should be caught in an irritable - Our Hotel was
directly on the quay, & a vessel in New York Street opposite our win-
dow, & the chief of the sailors shouting in caps, also did enable me to feel
by anticipation - We went on board on Wed. morn with a pleasant
morn. breeze, & sailed down the Rhine to the Roman Room. It was calm
& pleasant, & we had a good dinner quite in English style. After dinner
we went on deck again & made acquaintance with an English gentleman
a Tutor in Trinity College, Cambridge, as we afterwards learned. He was most
unusually agreeable, with a fund of information & pleasant anecdotes
on a great variety of subjects - And the dreaded voyage seemed
most agreeable - I having sat up till after 10 talking with our pleasant
acquaintance, I retired to the cabin, where a most attentive chamber-
maid tucked me into my berth, & wished me good night - And I
must there leave for the present or I shall not be ready for the
mail, & I have written at least four hours this morning - The end
you see is no longer London, but Antwerp's house, where we are well
pleasantly established since Tuesday of having left London that morn.
Lucy's letter which I got yesterday, says there is a letter from Tom, near
Lisbon, on the way - I say give most affectionate love to all
& believe me ever most sincerely yours,
James